

Application by West Burton Solar Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the West Burton Solar Project

Agenda for Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2):

Notification of the date, time, and venue for Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2) was provided in the Examining Authority's [Notification of Hearings and Request for Information](#) on 19 December 2023.

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)	Wednesday 24 January 2024 Hearing Starts at 5:30pm Registration and seating available at venue from 5pm and virtual Registration Process from 5pm	The Ballroom Hemswell Court Lancaster Green Hemswell Cliff DN21 5TQ and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Agenda items

- 1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the Open Floor Hearing**
- 2. Purpose of the Open Floor Hearing and confirmation of those who notified the Examining Authority of a wish to be heard**
- 3. Oral Submissions from Interested Parties**
 - Each Interested Party (IP) who has indicated a wish to speak will be invited forward in turn. Oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing by the participant. However, representations made at the hearing should not simply repeat matters previously covered in a written submission, but rather provide further detail, explanation and evidential corroboration to help inform the Examining Authority.
 - Depending on the number of requests, each party may be given a limited amount of time (as a guide each speaker should complete their submission within 10 minutes).

- In the event that we receive a large number of requests to speak, please note that it may be necessary for us to limit each speaker's time to five minutes
- Other parties who have not registered in advance to speak will be given the opportunity to address the Examining Authority.
- Following each submission, the Examining Authority may wish to ask the speaker questions.

4. The Applicant's response to representations

- The Applicant will be invited to respond briefly to the matters raised, and to address questions arising from the Examining Authority. This response will be either orally after all IPs and Non-IPs have spoken, or in writing by **Deadline 4 (Friday 28 February 2024)**.

5. Close of Hearing

Purpose of OFH2

The main purpose of the Open Floor Hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to make oral representations about the application and to seek to discharge the ExA's duty under Section 93(2) of the Planning Act 2008.

Attendees

Anyone wishing to attend the Hearing in person, who has not already advised the Case Team of this, should do so as soon as possible. Please refer to the [Notification of Hearings and Request for Information](#) letter of 19 December 2023 for information on submitting requests to attend the Hearing, which should be received no later than **Thursday 18 January 2024** via the project mailbox: westburtonsolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk .

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the Hearing date. Interested Parties and members of the public who wish to observe the Hearing can therefore view and listen to the Hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

Timing

The ExA will keep to the timings as much as possible. Anyone who is not able to provide all their oral submissions by the close of the hearing should follow it up in writing.

Registration Process

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a Joining Instruction email shortly before the Hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the Hearing to start on time at **5:30pm**, those attending virtually should join promptly at **5:00pm** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the Registration Process in good time.

Procedure at OFH

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at Hearings. Questioning at the Hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.

Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does not preclude further examination of this issue, including further written questions. The virtual element of the event will be open 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start. The hearing will finish as soon as we deem that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered. Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the day that they are scheduled for. If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time, there may be a need to continue the session for longer on the day. Alternatively, it may be necessary to prioritise matters and defer others to further written questions.